

Current Status of Texas Technology Initi

Authorized Under Texas Education Code, Chapter 32

Initiatives	Description	Purpose	Focus	Location
<div><div>TECHNOLOGY ALLOTMENT</div><div>CONTACTS: Anita Givens Sr. Director Karen Kahan Ed. Tech. Specialist</div></div>	Technology Allotment funds, established during the Sixth Called Session of the 71st Texas State Legislature, provide \$30 per student for technology.	All school districts in Texas are eligible to receive a technology allotment, currently \$30 per student, for the purchase of technology in support of the goals of <i>The Long-Range Plan for Technology</i> .	The allotment funds may be used for the purchase of electronic textbooks; technological equipment that contributes to student learning; and, to pay for training educational personnel directly involved in student learning in the appropriate use of electronic textbooks and for providing access to technological equipment for instructional use.	All school districts are receiving technology allotment funds.

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<p>TEXAS EDUCATION NETWORK (TENET)</p> <p>CONTACTS: Connie Stout Program Director Univ. of Texas at Austin Richard LaGow TENET Specialist</p>	<p>The Electronic Information Transfer System (TENET) provides telecommunications and related services to public school educators through an electronic network with resources that include on-line library catalogs, public databases, and instructional multi-media libraries.</p>	<p>The network provides cost-effective communications between school districts and TEA by offering the educators electronic mail, bulletin boards, computer conferencing and database access. Classroom teachers can use the network to access instructional materials to enhance classroom lessons.</p>	<p>Through collaborative efforts with educators in the state, the agency supports the use of telecommunications as an instructional application which extends learning beyond physical barriers and time constraints.</p>	<p>There are currently over 58,800 TENET accounts. Direct connections at each of the 20 regional education service centers have been established. Over 100 school districts have direct connections to TENET/Internet.</p>

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<u>TEXAS SCHOOL TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS RESOURCE</u> (T-STAR) <u>CONTACTS:</u> Robert Young Program Director Keith Elliott T-STAR Network Development Kate Loughrey T-STAR Project Coordinator	T-STAR is a statewide satellite network which provides one-way video/ two-way audio communication services for school districts, regional education service centers, and the agency.	T-STAR allows school districts and regional education service centers access to distance learning courses, professional development training, and a variety of instructional television programming available via satellite.	T-STAR equipment at schools is designed to allow schools to receive satellite-delivered educational programming from a great variety of program providers. Current focus is to provide training and information to the schools on how to use the equipment, how to select appropriate programming for their local school, and how to effectively utilize the programs in the classrooms.	All 20 regional education service centers and over 1,000 school districts have installed or received funding for the purchase and installation of a T-STAR satellite system.

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<div>TEXAS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY (TCET)</div> <div>CONTACT: Delia Duffey Program Director</div>	The Texas Center for Educational Technology (TCET) is a research center located at the University of North Texas in Denton and works in partnership with the University of Texas at Austin. Other universities participate in collaborative research activities.	The mission of the TCET is to promote research and development collaboration between industry and education in order that technologies and applications can be created and adapted for integration into the public school system.	TCET sponsors applied research projects designed to increase understanding of the impact of technology on the teaching and learning process. TCET assists educators in developing new applications for existing technologies by creating collaboratives.	100% of districts and all 20 regional education service centers are TCET members.

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<p>TECHNOLOGY PREVIEW & TRAINING CENTERS</p> <p>CONTACTS: Appropriate Regional Education Service Center</p>	<p>Technology preview and training centers are located at regional education service centers to include equipment, software and courseware, and funded staff to provide in-service and technical assistance to districts on technology planning, products, services, and to demonstrate effective uses of technology.</p>	<p>Preview and training centers allow district personnel hands-on experience with exemplary instructional systems as well as hardware, software, courseware, and other services; in addition, they provide continual assistance to districts in planning for the effective use and integration of technology into their daily operations.</p>	<p>Preview and training centers serve as effective resources designed to increase the level of technology expertise in school districts. Preview and training center staffs assist districts in implementation of district technology plans as well as <i>The Long-Range Plan for Technology</i>.</p>	<p>100% of districts have services available through preview and training centers located at the 20 regional education service centers.</p>	

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<div><div>TEXAS EDUCATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (TETN)</div><div>CONTACT: Carol Wesstrom TEA Site Manager</div></div>	TETN is a statewide telecommunications network among the 20 regional education service centers and TEA providing compressed two-way video/audio and data transmission using dedicated T-1 lines with the capabilities to connect to schools and other public institutions.	TETN was established to provide a dedicated telecommunications infrastructure between regional education service centers and the Texas Education Agency addressing the expanded need to exchange information and improve communication.	TETN improves communications, reduces travel expenses and reduces staff travel time for schools, regional education service centers and TEA. TETN is also used for electronic transfer of school data between regional education service centers and TEA.	All 20 regional education service centers and TEA.

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<p><u>TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION SITES:</u></p> <p>THE TRI-STATE MULTIMEDIA LEP PROJECT</p> <p><u>CONTACTS:</u> Anita Givens Sr. Director</p>	<p>The California Department of Education, the Florida Department of Education, and the Texas Education Agency have joined together to co-develop a multimedia, curriculum-based learning package for the Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) student population.</p>	<p><i>Vital Links</i> is an innovative multimedia U.S. History program. It is designed for use by middle grade students, teachers, and parents and is particularly appropriate for LEP student populations.</p>	<p><i>Vital Links</i> is based on a constructivist approach to history. At its core are a series of investigative questions that students explore in order to gain in-depth understanding of the key concepts important in our nation's development.</p>	<p>Available to all school districts.</p>

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<p>TEXAS LIBRARY CONNECTION (TLC)</p> <p>CONTACT: Gloria McClanahan Program Director</p>	<p>The Texas Library Connection (TLC) provides current, relevant information by identifying the physical location of books and resources of school libraries and by making available the full-text of commercial on-line databases.</p>	<p>The purpose of TLC is to insure equal access to current, relevant information to all citizens of its school communities, regardless of geographic location or district size.</p>	<p>TLC provides an integrated, statewide resource sharing system through which needed information resources are identified, accessed, and retrieved; facilitates library technical services; provides appropriate full text databases; enhances the ability of participating libraries to contribute to, and to participate in, local, state, and national resource sharing initiatives including TexShare and Project Link.</p>	<p>TLC is accessible to all Texas students and staff on the Texas Education Agency web site as well as on each of the Education Service Centers' web sites. Over 150 school districts have merged their holdings into over one million unique records. The participating districts have access to interlibrary loan and cataloging modules in addition to the public access catalog.</p>
<p>TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION SITES: CONTINUED</p> <p>PROJECTS FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>CONTACT: Karen Kahan Program Director</p>	<p>Senate Bill 1, passed by the 74th Texas Legislature and codified as Texas Education Code, Section 32.035(a), calls for the agency to establish demonstration programs.</p>	<p>These demonstration programs shall: (1) investigate the uses, effectiveness, and feasibility of technologies for education, and (2) provide models for effective education using technology.</p>	<p>A focus of these projects, as authorized in TEC Section 32.035(b), is "to encourage participation by and collaboration among districts, regional education service centers, the private sector, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education."</p>	<p>School districts or collaboratives of school districts are eligible to apply.</p>